

By the interest it has shown in the organization of public health and the regulation of the opium traffic; the Assembly has proved its anxiety to remove dangers threatening the physical and moral well-being both of individuals and of entire communities.

Thanks to the sincere co-operation of the Governments of Hungary and Austria, the financial reconstruction of those two countries has yielded most encouraging results.

The technical organizations, such as the Financial Committee and the Economic Committee, to which should be added the Committee for Communications and Transit, have displayed a praiseworthy activity. Each in its sphere has prepared the way for an undertaking the universal import of which will not have escaped the notice of members of this Assembly. All Governments are agreed that the causes of international difficulties and disputes are often to be sought in economic conditions. Thus, the proposal for a general economic conference has been received with favour. The resolution proposed by the Second Committee opens up a vast field of inquiry and investigation with a view not only to mitigating the effects but to removing the causes of the troubles which at the present time weigh so heavily upon all nations.

The question of intellectual co-operation also offers a promising outlook. The committee will shortly have at its disposal an admirable instrument in the Paris Institute and its influence is bound to increase with time. It will have to concentrate its attention on schemes for diffusing a knowledge of the ideal of the League of Nations, for winning fresh support and making its work better known. This task cannot be pursued by means of partisan propaganda, but only by a faithful and unbiased statement of the activities of the League of Nations.

Although the delicate question of the protection of minorities has not given rise to a definite resolution, it has nevertheless been discussed before the Sixth Committee. The opinions expressed during this discussion would serve to show that the League is conscientiously performing the useful, noble and difficult task entrusted to it under the treaties, namely, that of safe-guarding the interests of certain national minorities. The work it has done should inspire confidence in those populations which look to it for support. All fears and susceptibilities will gradually be removed by the wisdom of the Governments and the loyalty of the minorities. The combined and sincere efforts of the League of Nations, the Governments concerned and the minorities themselves should create a situation and a brotherly relationship which will mark the end of the minorities problem, both as a matter of international and of domestic concern.

I must not fail to draw attention to the work of the Mandates Commission in developing and perfecting the institution established by the Treaty, the control of which is entrusted to the League of Nations. We are firmly convinced that the Mandatory Powers have at heart the constant improvement of the material and moral conditions of the populations placed under their paternal and vigilant tutelage.

I have still to examine the outcome of these three words which are henceforth classic: "Arbitration, Security and Disarmament." The deliberations of this Assembly have shown us that the spirit of the Protocol drawn up last year still lives. It constitutes, at the present time, an ideal and a rule of conduct. None of the general principles enunciated by the Fifth Assembly were questioned by the Sixth. The only modifications concerned the application of those principles: the principles themselves formed the very basis of our discussions. Did not the Assembly show its intention by denouncing a war of aggression as an international crime? Did it not again affirm the necessity of arbitration and security as essential conditions to disarmament? Surely, however, security,